

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

Black magnetic iron oxide particles having an average particle diameter of 0.05 to 1.0 μm have a three-phase structure comprising:

a core portion containing at least one metal element other than Fe selected from the group consisting of Mn, Zn, Cu, Ni, Cr, Cd, Sn, Mg, Ti, Ca and Al in an amount of 0.1 to 10% by weight based on whole Fe contained in the particles;

a surface coat portion containing at least one metal element other than Fe selected from the group consisting of Mn, Zn, Cu, Ni, Cr, Cd, Sn, Mg, Ti, Ca and Al in an amount of 0.1 to 10% by weight based on whole Fe contained in the particles; and

an intermediate layer disposed between the core portion and the surface coat portion, containing substantially none of the metal elements other than Fe.